AN Humble Application TO THE QUEEN, And Her Great Council, THE Parliament of *England*, To SUPPRESS *Play-Houses* and *Bear-Baitings*, With All *Prophaneſs* and *Immorality*.

By John Feild.

For Rulers are not a Terror to Good Works, but to Evil.—But if thou do that which is Evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the Sword in vain: For he is the Miniſter of God, to revenge Wrath upon him that doth Evil, Rom. 13. 3, 4.

LONDON, Printed and Sold by T. Sowle, in *White-Hart-Court* in *Gracious-Street*, 1703.

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QUEEN,

And Her Great Council,

IN THE

Parliament of England,

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LONDON, Printed and Sold by [illegible] in Wild-
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AN Humble Application TO THE QUEEN, And Her Great Council, the *Parliament* of *England*, &c.

IN Humility I make this Application to the QUEEN, and Her Great Council, the Parliament: That they would, in the Fear and Wiſdom of God, be pleaſed, for his Honour, the Good of the Nation, and Reputation of the Chriſtian Religion, not to Licenſe or Countenance, with Authority, any *Play-Houſes*, *Revellings* at the *Temple*, *Dice-playing*, *Gaming*, *Stage-Players*, *Bull* or *Bear-baitings*, but totally to ſuppreſs and put them down; for thereby *Vice*, *Prophaneſs*, *Debauchery* and *Immorality*, do greatly abound, and are ſo Provokingly Practiſed, to the Scandal of Religion, and Ruine of many. And that Effectual Care may be alſo taken, that no *Curſing*, *Swearing*, or Calling upon God to *Damn their Souls*, may be Practiſed or Indulged by any, eſpecially *Legiſlators*, or thoſe that are in any Publick Stations or Imployments in the Government; that ſo all which are under them, may, by their Sober Carriage, and Exemplary Converſations, be brought to Shame, and inclined to Repentance, and Amendment of their Lives and Practices; that ſo the Lord may turn away his Wrath, and the Bleſſings of God may be Enjoyed and Continued to this Nation.

For is not this the End, for which the *moſt High God*, that

Rules in the *Kingdoms of Men*, and appointeth over it whomsoever he will, (the God in whose Hand the Breath of all Living is) hath, by his *Divine Providence*, placed the present QUEEN upon the Throne of Her *Royal Ancestors?* And is it not by the Lord, *Power* is given unto Her, and *Sovereignty* from the Highest?

And as She bears Rule among Men, it's my Hearty Desire and Prayer unto God, she may be Just, *Ruling in the Fear of God*; that so she may be Endued with that Wisdom, by whom *Kings reign, and Princes decree Justice*, and may not Bear the Sword in Vain; but be a *Terror* to them that do Evil, and a *Praise* to them that do well; that Her Throne may be Established in *Righteousness*, and the *Blessings of God* may be upon Her and her People; and that she may *Live for ever.*

And I am the more Emboldned thus to make my Humble Application to the *Queen* and the *Parliament*, and have the more ground to hope this my Request will be answered by Her and Them, Because she hath, in Her Royal Proclamation, *For the Encouragement of Piety and Vertue, and Preventing and Punishing of Vice, Prophaness and Immorality*, dated the 26th of *March*, 1702. Thus declared to Her Subjects, *viz.*

'We most Seriously and Religiously Considering, that 'it is an Indispensible Duty on Us, to be Careful, above 'all other Things, to Preserve and Advance the Honour 'and Service of Almighty God, and to Discourage and 'Suppress All Vice, Prophaness, Debauchery and Immo-'rality; which are so highly Displeasing to God, so great 'Reproach to our Religion and Government, and (by means 'of the frequent ill Examples of the Practicers thereof) have 'so fatal a Tendency, to the Corruption of many of our 'Loving Subjects, otherwise Religiously and Vertuously 'Disposed, and which (if not timely Remedied) may 'justly draw down the Divine Vengeance upon Us, and 'Our Kingdoms.

Is there not therefore great need, in *Duty to God*, to Advance his *Honour*, and Prevent his *Vengeance*, and take away Reproach from our *Religion* and *Government*; that those *Nurseries* of *Vice*, the *Play-Houses*, *Stage-Players*, *Revellings* and *Gaming*, with *Bull* and *Bear-baitings*, may be totally Suppressed and put down, which have so great and fatal a Tendency, to the Corruption of the Queen's Subjects, and Ruine of many; and may draw down

(as

(as ſuch Provoking Abominations often have) the *Divine Vengeance*, if continued; as ſhe well and truly obſerves, ſaying:

'We humbly Acknowledge, We cannot expect the Bleſ-
'ſing and Goodneſs of Almighty God (by whom Kings and
'Queens Reign, and on which we intirely Rely) to make
'our Reign Happy and Proſperous to our Self and People,
'nor hope for the Divine Aſſiſtance to Deliver us from the
'Great and Eminent Dangers, which our Kingdom, and
'the true Proteſtant Religion eſtabliſhed among Us, are in
'this preſent Juncture threatned with, without a Religious
'Obſervance of God's Holy Law.

I therefore hope, the *Queen* and *Parliament* will Actually put down all *Play-Houſes*, and not ſuffer *Stage-Players*, and *Riotous Meetings* at *Bear-Gardens*, &c. to be upheld, under Pretence of her *Authority*, nor ſo to be Publiſhed in Print unto the World, as is too common by the *Holders* thereof: Inaſmuch as the *Queen*, by the Advice of her *Privy Council*, doth declare thus;

'It is our Royal Purpoſe and Reſolution, to Diſcounte-
'nance and Puniſh all manner of Vice and Immorality in
'All Perſons, and Every Degree or Quality, within this
'Realm; and particularly in ſuch that are Imployed near
'our Royal Perſon: And that for the greater Incourage-
'ment of Religion and Morality, We will, upon all occa-
'ſions, diſtinguiſh Perſons of Piety and Vertue, by Marks
'of our Royal Favour.

Wherefore it may be humbly hoped, that the *Queen* and her *Parliament*, will not only openly declare againſt, but put down theſe manifeſt Provocations, as they deſire her *Reign* may be *Proſperous*, and hope for *Divine Aſſiſtance* and *Deliverance*, from thoſe Great and Eminent Dangers, which the *Queen*, her *Nation*, and *Proteſtant Religion*, are threatned with.

For moſt certain it is, as the late *King*, the *Queen*'s Royal Brother, did declare in his *Proclamation*, dated the 24*th* of *February*, 1697. *viz.*

'Nothing can prove a greater Diſhonour to a Well-ordered Go-
'vernment, where the Chriſtian Faith is Profeſſed, nor is likelier
'to Provoke God to withdraw his Mercy and Bleſſings from us,
'and inſtead thereof, to inflict heavy and ſevere Judgments upon
'this Kingdom, than the open and avowed Practice of Vice, Im-
'morality and Prophaneſs, which amongſt Men has too much
'prevailed in this our Kingdom of late Years, to the high Diſ-

pleaſure

'pleaſure of Almighty God, the great Scandal of Chriſtianity, 'and the ill and fatal Example of the reſt of our Loving Sub- 'jects, who have been Soberly Educated, and whoſe Inclinations 'would lead them to the Exerciſe of Piety and Vertue, did they 'not daily find ſuch frequent and repeated Inſtances of Diſſolute 'Living, Prophaneſs and Impiety.

Alſo the late Queen *Mary*, in her *Letter* (in the abſence of the King) *to the Juſtices of the Peace in the County of* Middleſex, *for the Suppreſſing of Prophaneſs and Debauchery*, dated *July* 9. 1691. ſaith, '*Concerning the Great and Indiſpenſible Duty incumbent upon* 'Us, *to Promote and Encourage a Reformation of the Manners* 'of all Our Subjects; *that ſo the Service of God may be Ad-* 'vanced, *and thoſe Bleſſing be Procured to theſe Nations, which* 'always attend a Conſciencious Diſcharge of Our Reſpective Du- 'ties, *according to our ſeveral Relations: We think it neceſſary,* 'in order to the Obtaining of this Publick Good, *to Recommend* 'to you the putting in Execution, with all Fidelity and Impar- 'tiality, *thoſe Laws which have been made, and are ſtill in* 'force, *againſt the Profanation of the Lord's Day, Drunken-* 'neſs, Prophane Swearing and Curſing, and all other Lewd, 'Enormous, and Diſorderly Practices,—*for preventing of ſuch* 'Judgments which are Solemnly Denounced againſt the Sins 'above-mentioned,—*as you tender the Honour of Almighty God,* 'the Flouriſhing Condition of his Church in this Kingdom, the 'Continuance of his Holy Religion among Us, and the Pro- 'ſperity of your Country.

And the Houſe of Commons, in their Addreſs to the late King *William*, well obſerved: 'The Examples of Men in High and 'Publick Stations, have a Powerful Influence upon the Lives 'of others; *(and therefore ſay)* We do moſt humbly Beſeech 'your Majeſty, That all Vice, Prophaneſs and Irreligion, 'may in a particular manner be Diſcouraged, in all thoſe 'who have the Honour to be Employed near your Royal 'Perſon, and in all others who are in your Majeſty's Ser- 'vice, by Sea and Land; appointing ſtrict Orders to be

'given

'given to all your Commanders, That they not only ſhew 'a good Example themſelves, but alſo inſpect the Manners 'of thoſe under them: And that your Majeſty would, upon 'all occaſions, diſtinguiſh Men of Piety and Vertue, by Marks 'of your Royal Favour.

And that noted Book, Intituled, *An Account of the Societies for Reformation of Manners*, &c. printed 1699. *Which hath been Peruſed and Recommended, the Deſign of which is ſo truly Great and Noble, ſo much for the Honour of God, the Advancement of Piety and Vertue, and the Publick Good both of Church and State, that it cannot fail of being approved by all good Men*, as the Twenty Nine Temporal Lords, Nine Biſhops, and Seven Judges, declared to the Author; ſee the Book. And in page 4. of the ſaid Book: 'It's well obſerved, that 'in our *open Streets*, as if we were reſolved to out-do the *Impieties* of 'the very *Heathens*, *Prophaneſs*, and even *Blaſphemy*, was too often the 'Wit and Entertainment of our Scandalous Play-Houſes, and *Sincere* '*Religion* became the Jeſt and Scorn of our Courts in the late Reigns. 'And thus Debauchery diffuſed it ſelf throughout the whole Body 'of the Nation, till at laſt our Morals were ſo Corrupted, that '*Vertue* and *Vice* had with too many changed their Names: It 'was reckoned *Breeding* to *Swear*, *Gallantry* to be *Lewd*, *Good* '*Humour* to be *Drunk*, and *Wit* to deſpiſe *Sacred Things*; and it 'was enough to have rendred one ſuſpected of *Phanaticiſm*, or an 'Abjectneſs of Spirit, and a Matter of Reproach, not to ſuffer 'one's ſelf to be carried away with the *Torrent of Wickedneſs*, and 'not to glory in thoſe *Faſhionable Vices*.

Thus we ſee, we have *Three Crowned Heads*, the *Parliament* of *England*, *Twenty Nine Lords*, *Nine Biſhops*, and *Seven Judges*, Teſtifying againſt *Vice* and *Immorality*.

Therefore it's humbly Requeſted, That the *Government* would be pleaſed totally to Suppreſs all the *Play-Houſes*, that none of them may be ſuffered to pretend the *Queen*'s *Authority* or *Licenſe* for any of them; being the *Nurſeries* of *Debauchery*, the *Bane* of *Youth*, the *Corruption of Manners*, and the *Shame* of *Government*, and *Scandal* of *Chriſtianity*: 'That *Religion* be not treated (as ſaith the aforeſaid Book, p. 114.) 'with any Diſreſpect; particularly, 'that it be not made the Scorn of any Order or Body of Men, 'the common Subject of the Prophane Play-Houſes, or the Sport 'of Buffoons; and that the open Violation of it, by Prophane

'Swearing

'Swearing and Curſing, Drunkenneſs, Lewdneſs, *&c.* be ſup-
'preſſed; as all Wiſe Nations, I conceive, have ever done, and
'ever will do.

I hope it will not be either Offenſive or Improper, to add to the foregoing Quotations, ſomething farther on the ſame Subject, and agreeable thereto, out of *Hiſtrio Maſtix*, the Players Scourge, or Actor's Tragedy; by which it appears, the Author was an Antiquary of great Reading and Induſtry on this Subject; ſhewing, *Magiſtrates*, *Emperors* and *Princes*, have Excluded, Suppreſſed, and Condemned *Stage-Plays:* And in pag. 713, 714, 715. ſaith, 'If we look upon *Heathen States* or *Nations*, we ſhall find the 'Ancient *Lacedemonians*, *Athenians*, *Grecians*, *Romans*, *Germans*, '*Maſcilienſes*, *Goths* and *Vandals*; if upon *Heathen Magiſtrates*, '*Emperors* or *Princes*, we ſhall ſee *Licurgus*, *Solon*, *Plato*, *Socrates*, '*Themiſtocles*, *Scipio*, *Naſſica*, *Trebonius*, *Ruſinus*, *Junius Mauricus*, 'together with *Auguſtus Cæſar*, *Tiberius*, *Nero*, *Trajan*, *Marcus* '*Aurelius*, *Domitian*, *Julian*, and the whole *Roman Senate*, Exclu-'ding, Suppreſſing, Condemning *Plays* and *Actors*, as the occaſion 'of much Vice and Lewdneſs, the Fomenters of Whoredoms, Ef-'feminacy, Idleneſs, *&c.* the Corrupters of the Peoples Minds and 'Manners, the Authors of many Tumults, Diſcords, Diſorders; 'the Cauſes of much Prodigality, of many Intolerable Miſchiefs 'in a State.——If we look on *Chriſtian States* or *Nations*, we ſhall 'diſcern the whole State and Nation of the *Jews*, both before 'and ſince *Chriſt*'s time, together with all the *Primitive Chri-'ſtians*, the *Waldenſes*, *Albingenſes*, and *French Proteſtants*, the Cities 'of *Geneva*, *Tigure*, *Baſil*, and the whole State of *England*, in ſundry 'Acts of Parliament, Condemning, Suppreſſing *Plays* and *Players*, 'as moſt Prophane Unchriſtian Spectacles, not Tolerable in any 'Chriſtian Republick.—— 'If we deſire any Precedents of *Chri-'ſtian Emperors*, *Princes*, *Magiſtrates*, we have not only the Ex-'amples of *Noah*, *Melchizedec*, *Abraham*, *Iſaac*, *Jacob*, *Joſeph*, '*Moſes*, *Joſhua*, *David*, *Solomon*, *Hezekiah*, *Joſiah*, with other Godly 'Patriarchs, Kings and Princes, Recorded in the Scriptures for 'our Chriſtian Imitation; who were ſo far from Cheriſhing, 'from Approving, *Enterludes*, *Mummeries*, *Maſques*, or *Stage-Plays*, 'either in their Palaces, Courts, or Kingdoms, (as too many 'Princes ſince have done) that we never Read in Scripture, nor 'in any other Story whatſoever, that they were ſo much as 'once Experimentally Acquainted with them: The whole *Jewiſh*

'*Nation*

'*Nation* (ſome few Apoſtates only excepted) Oppugning them 'from time to time (and ſo by Conſequence, theſe Patriarchs, 'Magiſtrates, and Princes too) as Oppoſite to their *Religion*, '*Manners*, *Laws*, and *Government*: ——(Which methinks ſhould 'ſomewhat move all Chriſtian Princes and Governments, to 'abandon *Stage-Plays* now; ſince they can find no King, no 'Pious Perſon, in all the *Bible*, that ever harboured or beheld 'them heretofore) But likewiſe the Patterns of *Conſtantine*, *Theo-* '*doſius*, *Leo*, *Anthemius*, *Juſtinian*, *Valentinian*, *Valens*, *Gratian*, '*Charles* the Great, *Theodoricus*, *Henry* the Third Emperor of that 'Name, *Philip Auguſtus* King of *France*, our Famous Queen *Eli-* '*zabeth*, and her *Council*, with our *London Magiſtrates* and *Uni-* '*verſities* in her Reign; who all Suppreſſed, Inhibited *Stage-* '*Plays*, *Sword-Plays* and *Actors*, as Unſufferable Miſchiefs in any 'Chriſtian State or City. To theſe I might add *Ludovicus* the 'Emperor, who, by his publick Edicts, agreeing *Verbatim* with 'the Seven and Eight fore-quoted Canons of *Synodus Turonenſis*, 'p. 589, 590. Inhibited all *Miniſters*, all *Clergy-Men*, from *Stage-* '*Plays*, *Hunting*, *Hauking*, &c. Together with *Charles* the Ninth, 'and *Henry* the Third of *France*; who by their Solemn *Laws* and '*Edicts*, prohibited all *Stage-Plays*, all *Dancing on Lords Days*, or 'other *ſolemn Annual Feſtivals*, under Pain of Impriſonment, and 'other Penalties, to be Inflicted by the Magiſtrates: And our 'own moſt Gracious Soveraign Lord King *Charles*, who, together 'with the *whole Court of Parliament*, in the Firſt Year of his 'Highneſſes Reign, Enacted this moſt Pious Play-Condemning 'Law, Intituled, *An Act for Prohibiting of divers Abuſes commit-* '*ted on the Lord's Day, called* Sunday: *Foraſmuch as there is no-* '*thing more acceptable to God, than the true and ſincere Worſhip of* '*him, according to his Holy Will; that the holy keeping the Lord's* '*Day, is a principal part of the true Worſhip of God, which in very* '*many places of this Realm, hath been, and now is, prophaned and* '*neglected, by a Diſorderly ſort of People, in Exerciſing and Frequent-* '*ing* Bear-baiting, Bull-baiting, **Enterludes, Common Plays,** '*and other Unlawful Exerciſes and Paſtimes.*

'P. 717. If then all theſe Pagan, theſe Chriſtian Nations, Re- 'publicks, Emperors, Princes, Magiſtrates, have thus abandoned, 'cenſured, ſuppreſſed *Plays* and *Players*, out of a long Experimental 'Knowledge of their many vicious lewd Effects: Or are we aſhamed 'to be like our Anceſtors, in Judgment, in Opinion, as we are in

'Tonſure, Complement, Habit and Attire, in this *Age of Novel-*
'*ties*, which likes of Nothing that is old or common, (*though*
'*ſuch things commonly are beſt of all*) that we thus undervalue the
'Reſolutions of all former Ages, in this Caſe of *Plays* and *Players*,
'preferring our own Wits and Luſts before them? O let us be
'aſhamed now, at laſt to Countenance, to Plead for that, which
'the very beſt, the wiſeſt Heathens, yea, Chriſtian Nations, States
'and Magiſtrates, of all ſorts, have thus branded, and caſt out,
'as Lewd, as Vicious, as Abominable, in the very higheſt degree:
'And let us now ſubmit our Judgments, our Practice, Luſts, and
'Fooliſh Fancies, to their deliberate, mature, experimental Cen-
'ſures; Abominating, Condemning *Plays* and *Players*, if not Exiling
'them our Cities, Coaſts and Country, as all theſe have done;
'Arming our ſelves with peremptory Reſolutions againſt all fu-
'ture *Stage-Players*.

And in his *Epiſtle Dedicatory* the 2d. to ſhew what's ſaid is no Ficti-
ous *Novelty*, or Conceited *Singularity*, he ſaith, 'It hath the Concur-
'rent Teſtimony, the Unanimous Reſolution, of ſundry Texts of
'Scripture, of the whole Primitive Church and Saints of God,
'both before and under the Law and Goſpel, the Canons of
'Fifty Five ſeveral Oecumenical, National, Provincial Synods
'and Councils, of divers Ages and Countries; together with the
'Canonical, the Imperial Conſtitutions of the Apoſtles them-
'ſelves, of Emperors, Popes, and other Biſhops, the Works
'of Seventy One Fathers, and Ancient Chriſtian Writers, of
'Chiefeſt Note, from our Saviour's Nativity, to the Year 1200.
'the Suffrages of above One Hundred and Fifty Chriſtian Au-
'thors, of all ſorts, from the Year 1200. to this preſent; the
'Sentence of Forty Heathen Philoſophers, Orators, Hiſtorians,
'Poets; together with the Play-Condemning Laws and Edicts
'of ſundry Chriſtian, yea, Pagan Nations, Republicks, Emperors,
'Princes, Magiſtrates, in ſeveral Ages; with the Statutes, Ma-
'giſtrates, Univerſities, Writers and Preachers of our own Re-
'nowned Kingdom, to back, to ſecond them in all particulars;
'who have long ſince paſſed this heavy Cenſure againſt Stage-
'Plays, That they are the very Works, the Pomps, Inventions,
'and chief Delights of the Devil, which all Chriſtians ſolemnly
'Abjure in their Baptiſm, the moſt peſtilent Corruption of all
'Men's, (eſpecially Young Men's) *Minds* and *Manners*; the chief
'Fomenters of all *Vice* and *Wickedneſs*; the greateſt Enemies of

'all

'all *Vertue*, *Grace* and *Goodneſs*; the moſt miſchievous Plagues 'that can be harboured in *Church* or *State*; yea, Lewd, Infernal 'Paſtimes, not Tolerable among Heathens, not Sufferable in *any* 'well-ordered Chriſtian Republick; not once to be haunted or 'applauded by any Civil Vertuous Perſons, who are either 'mindful of their Credits, or of their own Salvation: Which, 'as it controls the groſs Miſtake of divers Voluptuous, Pagani-'zing Chriſtians in our Days, who dote on Stage-Plays, as 'the moſt Laudable, Generous, if not Neceſſary Recreations; ſo 'it ſhould now at laſt Engage all Chriſtians for ever to abandon 'them, as the very beſt of Saints, of Pagans, have done in former 'Ages. Alas, what Goodneſs, what Profit do Men reap from '*Stage-Plays*, that ſhould any ways Engage their Affections to 'them? Do they not *Enrage* their Luſts, *Add* Fire and Fewel 'to their Unchaſte Affections, *Deprave* their Minds, *Corrupt* their 'Manners, *Cauterize* their Conſciences, *Obdurate* their Hearts, '*Multiply* their heinous Tranſgreſſions, *Conſume* their Eſtates, *Miſ-'ſpend* their Time, *Canker* their Graces, *Blaſt* all their Vertues, '*Interrupt* their Studies, *Indiſpoſe* them to Repentance, and true 'Godly Sorrow for their Sins; make all God's Ordinances in-'effectual to their Spiritual Good; draw down the Guilt of ſun-'dry Play-Houſe-Abominations on their Perſons; Incorporate 'them into Lewd and Ungodly Company; and, without Repen-'tance, Damn their Souls? Do they not Diſhonour their moſt 'Holy God, Abuſe their moſt Bleſſed Saviour ſundry ways, 'Blaſpheme and Grieve God's Holy Spirit, Prophane the Sacred 'Scriptures, and the Name of God; Deride and Jeer Religion, 'Holineſs, Vertue, Temperance, Grace, Goodneſs, with all Re-'ligious Vertuous Perſons; Advance the Devil's Sceptre, Service, 'Kingdom, by Sowing, by Cheriſhing the Seeds of *Atheiſm*, *Heathen-'iſm*, *Prophaneſs*, *Incontinency*, *Voluptuouſneſs*, *Idleneſs*, yea, all kind of '*Wickedneſs*, in their Actors and Spectators Hearts.

And it's my Hearty Deſire to God, That all *Juſt* and *Pious* Inclinations and Reſolutions in the QUEEN, may be Effectually put in *Practice*; and the Eminent Dangers, which her Kingdom, and true Proteſtant Religion, are in this Juncture threatned with, *Prevented*; and the heavy and ſevere Judgments of God, *Diverted*; and the Diſhonour of the Chriſtian Religion Profeſſed, *Removed*; God's Holy Law *Obſerved*, the Bleſſings of God *Enjoyed*, and the QUEEN's Reign made *Proſperous*, and Her Subjects *Happy*.

A Brief Cautional Concluſion, more Generally reſpecting a Spiritual *and* Inward Reformation.

AS the true Intent of *Magiſtracy*, being a *Divine Ordinance*, is for the *Puniſhment* and *Terror of Evil-doers*, and *Praiſe of them that do well*; and, ſo far as their Power extends, to work an *outward Reformation* from manifeſt *Wickedneſs*, and groſs *Provocations*: So it is the Work of *Chriſt*, by his *Light*, *Grace*, and good *Spirit*, to work an Inward and Effectual *Reformation* in *Peoples Hearts*; and as *Soveraign Lord* over the Conſcience, to bring them to *keep a Conſcience void of Offence towards God, and all Men*: For it is He only, that *ſearcheth the Heart*, can work this *Inward Reformation*, which doth Remove the Occaſion of theſe *Outward Laws* and *Penalties*, which were added becauſe of *Tranſgreſſion*.

I therefore do earneſtly deſire, That all, who Believe there is a God, and profeſs Faith in Him, and his dear Son, the Lord Jeſus Chriſt; and own the Holy Spirit, that proceeds from the *Father* and the *Son*, and is *poured forth in this day upon all Fleſh, according to God's Promiſe*, may Receive and Learn thereof; that thereby all may not only Know what is *Good*, and what their *Duty* is towards *God*; but be Enabled to the Faithful *Performance*, and Sincere *Diſcharge* thereof: It's for that end, God (that requires us to *Love*, *Fear*, and *Serve* Him) hath been pleaſed to beſtow it upon All, that ſo they may be Enabled to *do his Will*, and in neglect thereof, be left without *Excuſe* in the Great *Day of Account*. For had he given Man a *Law* and *Command*, and not afforded him that which was ſufficient to Abilitate him to *keep* and *obſerve* the ſame, Man might have ſome Excuſe; but it is not ſo, and therefore he *juſtly* Puniſhes them that do not keep his holy *Law* and *Command*.

It's very obſervable in Holy Writ, and ought Seriouſly to be Conſidered by all that own the Divine Authority thereof, That ever ſince the *great Creator of all Things*, the *moſt High God*, made Man in his own *Image* of *Righteouſneſs*, and gave to him his *holy Law* and *Command*, that the Breach and Violation thereof by Man hath been the Cauſe of all the great Calamities and ſevere Judgments

Judgments, which the Righteous God hath brought upon the Children of Men, in the ſeveral Ages of the World, unto this Day: Some of which, this Nation, and other parts of the *Queen*'s Dominions, have been large Sharers of, by *Peſtilence*, *Wars*, *Fire*, and particularly *Famine* in *Scotland*, not many Years ſince.

For Prevention of which, for the future, I humbly Pray Almighty God, *that hath the Hearts of all Men in his Hand*; That He would turn every one, both High and Low, from the Evil of their Ways, and Abomination of their Doings, and Incline their Hearts to keep his *Law*, and bring them to Learn of his *Grace*, which appears unto them, (and came by Jeſus Chriſt, his dear Son, whom all ought to hear and obey) that they may be taught, not only to *deny all Ungodlineſs*; but through his Sufficient Grace, may be enabled to *refrain* from, and *abandon* all *Vice*, *Prophaneſs* and *Immorality*, whatſoever; and may come, by his holy Spirit, to know their Hearts, and all their Members, mortified from all Worldly and Carnal Luſts; that they may, in all things, obey his Bleſſed Will, through the ſame, his dear Son Jeſus Chriſt.

Now the Way for a General *Reformation of Manners*, and *Amendment of Life*, is for every one, of what *Rank*, *Quality*, or *Degree* ſoever, to Love and Learn of that *Spirit*, *Grace* and *Truth*, that is come by *Chriſt*, and to Believe in him; for then will they truly know *God* to be their *Father*, *Chriſt* their *Saviour*, and this *Holy Spirit* their *Sanctifier*, from all *Vicious*, *Prophane*, *Immoral*, *Ungodly Ways* and *Practices*, and *Diſſolute Living*: And ſo to avoid that, which not only the *Queen*, her *Royal Predeceſſors*, the *Parliament*, the *Twenty Nine Lords*, *Nine Biſhops*, and *Seven Judges* by Name, have Cautioned againſt, and Diſcountenanced; but all that alſo, which is *highly* Diſpleaſing, and *greatly* Provoking to *Almighty God*.

Let not therefore any, *High* or *Low*, think it's enough to Teſtify againſt theſe *Abominations*, and to ſay within themſelves, They have *God* to their *Father*, *Chriſt* for their *Saviour*, the *Holy Ghoſt* for their *Sanctifier*, and that they Believe therein, and Profeſs the *Chriſtian Religion*, and *diſlike* theſe things; and yet either *Continue* therein, or *Connive* thereat, and *Encourage* or *Countenance* (by their own *Example*) ſuch, or any of theſe *Evils*: For thereby they will the more Provoke *God*, Incur his *Diſpleaſure*, Scandalize the *Chriſtian Religion*, and Contract the greater *Guilt* upon their own *Souls*: And if they forſake not their *Sins*, and unfeignedly Repent

pent thereof, and amend their Ways, and put away the Evil of their Doings from before the Eyes of Him, that Knows their *Thoughts*, Records their *Actions*, and will moſt certainly bring *every Work to Judgment*, with *every Secret Thing*, and Reward every one according to their Works; and thoſe that live in, and love their Evil Ways, and dye in their Sins and Unbelief, ſhall know a being *Puniſhed with Everlaſting Deſtruction from the Preſence of the Lord, and Glory of his Power, for ever*; and have their Portion in *Eternal Miſery*, where the *Worm never dyeth*, nor the *Fire never goes out*; where there is *Weeping, Wailing, and Gnaſhing of Teeth, for ever and ever.*

Therefore it's my Tender Counſel and Advice, in the Love of Him, *that would have all Men to be ſaved*; and in the Love of Him, *that Died for every Man, and Roſe again*, That every one, whilſt they have time here, (which is both ſhort and uncertain) would mind the *inward Convictions*, and *ſecret Reproofs*, of that Spirit, which Chriſt ſaid, *ſhall Convince the World of Sin*; *A Manifeſtation of which Spirit is given to every one to profit withal*; and whoſoever have not this Spirit, are no true Chriſtians; nor can any be the *Children*, or *Sons of God*, but thoſe that are *Born of*, and *Led by this Holy Spirit*; neither can any be *Led into all Truth*, but by this Spirit; nor have a *part in Chriſt*, unleſs they be Waſhed and Sanctified thereby.

Therefore I earneſtly Intreat all, That theſe things might have their *due Weight*, and *deliberate Conſideration*; and that there may be a *hearty* and *ſincere* Deſire, to Anſwer the *Law of God*, to Keep his *holy Commands*, to Diſcharge our *Duty* to Him, to *Love*, *Fear*, and *Serve* Him, to know *Peace* with him, to *Enjoy* his Bleſſing, to *Honour* his dear Son, the Lord *Jeſus Chriſt*, to Obſerve his *Doctrine*, to Anſwer our *Chriſtian Profeſſion*, to make the holy Scriptures our *Rule of Faith* and *Practice*; which ſay, *Finally Brethren, whatſoever things are True, whatſoever things are Honeſt, whatſoever things are Juſt, whatſoever things are Pure, whatſoever things are Lovely, whatſoever things are of good Report*; *if there be any Vertue, and if there be any Praiſe, think on theſe things*; for they certainly are ſuch that Chriſtians ought to follow.

And if the Nation expect *God's Bleſſings*, and that his ſevere *Judgments* ſhould be Averted, let not thoſe things, that are neither *Honeſt, Juſt, Pure, Lovely*, or of *good Report*, that have no *Vertue* or *Praiſe* in them, be practiſed, given way to, or frequented

quented by any, as *Stage-Plays*, *Bull* and *Bear-baitings*, *Drolleries*, *Comedies*, *Tragedies*, *Dicing*, *Revellings*, *Drunkenneſs*, or any *Vice* or *Immoralities* whatſoever; for they are contrary to the *Law* and *Commands* of *God*, the *Mind* of *Chriſt*, the *Doctrine* of the *Chriſtian Religion*, and ought therefore to be carefully and diligently avoided, by all that make Profeſſion thereof, and have any regard to the Good of their Souls; for no Enormities ought to be Countenanced or Tolerated by *Chriſtian Governours*, but Excluded, Cenſured, and totally Suppreſſed; as I humbly hope the *Queen*, and her *Parliament* will, that they may prevent, what in them lies, all thoſe Diſorders and Diſorderly ſort of People, Exerciſing themſelves in ſuch things, and Frequenting *Play-Houſes*, *Bear-baitings*, *Bull-baitings*, &c. And if all would receive and learn of the *Spirit* and *Grace of God* in their own Hearts, they would be taught to deny all *Vice*, *Immorality* and *Prophaneſs* whatſoever; and then the *Chriſtian Religion* would appear in its Luſtre, and the Profeſſors thereof, would in Life, Practice and Converſation, *ſhine* in their ſeveral Stations; ſo that others *ſeeing their good Works*, *might glorifie God* in their Behalf. And the way for this *General Reformation* to be throughly Effected, is, as I have ſaid, for all to Receive and Live in the *Spirit of Chriſt*, whom they Profeſs, and to Walk therein; for then they ſhall not fulfil the *Luſts of the Fleſh*, nor be found in any of the *Works thereof*, which Offend *God*, Diſhonour his *Holy Name*, and are a Scandal to the true *Chriſtian Religion*, and Grieve *God's Holy Spirit*, and bring *Death* and *Damnation* upon them that *live* and *die* therein.

Oh therefore! that every one, that Profeſſes *Faith* in *God*, and in our Lord *Jeſus Chriſt*, and in his *Holy Spirit*, may not only ſo do, and pray for the *Spirit*, but alſo receive the ſame, and give up to the Dictates and Conduct of it: Which is the *hearty* Deſire and *fervent* Prayer of him, that truly wiſheth the Welfare and Salvation of all People: And that the *Queen*, and her *Parliament*, with all her *Subjects*, may always be found in that which will tend to Her and Their both *Temporal* and *Eternal Happineſs*.

London, *The* 10*th of the* 12*th Month*, 1702. *John Feild.*

ERRATA.

Title-Page, for *to revenge Wrath*, read *a Revenger to execute Wrath*. P. 6. l. 13. r. *Bleſſings*.

FINIS.

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